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FBB597

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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b6 per FBI  
b7C per FBI

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 IO-10 FBIE-00

*John Thomson Stonehouse*

/044 W

P R 201505Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6760

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

125282

REC-77

EX 104

15 DEC 27 1974

b3 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1) per FBI  
b6 per FBI  
b7C per FBI  
b7E per FBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE IN FLORIDA OF LABOR MP STONE-

2.0 JAN 1975

1. MEDIA, PARTICULARLY TABLOID PRESS, HAVE HAD FOLD

R-2022-00160

A-00000505965

"UNCLASSIFIED"

5/18/2022

DAY IN REPORTING DISAPPEARANCE IN FLORIDA OF LABOR MP  
STONEHOUSE. IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED STONEHOUSE HAD CONNEC-  
TIONS WITH MAFIA, WAS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, HAD RE-  
CENTLY TAKEN OUT LIFE INSURANCE, AND HAD MISHANDLED OR  
APPROPRIATED MONEY OF BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT FUND, AN  
INSTITUTION HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING.

2. ANOTHER STORY GIVEN WIDE DISTRIBUTION WAS THAT STONE-  
HOUSE WAS CONNECTED WITH CZECH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.  
THE STORY HAD ITS ORIGIN IN STATEMENTS MADE BY PROMINENT  
CZECH DEFECTOR MAJOR JOSEF FROLIK, WHO ACCUSED STONEHOUSE  
OF THESE CONNECTIONS AS EARLY AS 1969. WITH PUBLICITY ON  
HIS DISAPPEARANCE, DEFECTOR'S CLAIM WAS REVIVED AND  
DUSTED OFF AGAIN, WITH RESULT THAT PRIME MINISTER WILSON  
RUSHED TO MAKE AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT IN HOUSE OF COM-  
MONS DECEMBER 18.

3. IN HIS UNUSUAL REACTION ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT  
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INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, WILSON NOTED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE FIRST MADE BY THE CZECH DEFECTOR IN 1969, WHEN STONEHOUSE WAS MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. WILSON SAID THAT, WITH HIS APPROVAL, THE SECURITY SERVICE HAD INVESTIGATED THESE ALLEGATIONS FULLY AND ADVISED HIM THAT AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ALLEGATIONS. WILSON SAID THAT HE HAD AGAIN BEEN ADVISED THAT NO EVIDENCE HAD COME TO LIGHT AT ANY TIME SINCE THEN. WILSON SAID IT WAS PROVED THAT STONEHOUSE HAD NOT BEEN A CZECHOSLOVAK SPY AND THAT HE WAS NOT IN ANY SENSE A SECURITY RISK. WILSON ADDED THAT STONEHOUSE WAS ALSO NOT AN AGENT OF THE CIA.

4. IN HIS STATEMENT, WILSON SAID THAT INVESTIGATION INTO DISAPPEARANCE WAS BEING CONDUCTED BY AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WHO WERE IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH COUNTERPARTS, BUT HE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT STONEHOUSE'S DISAPPEARANCE. BBC TELEVISION CARRIED FACTUAL REPORT ON EVENING OF DECEMBER 19 ON ACTIVITIES OF FLORIDA POLICE.

SPIERS